

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration of the application in view of the present Amendment.

Claims 1 and 25 are cancelled.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 9, 13, 14, 17, 18, 20, 22-24, 26-28, 32 and 37 are amended.

A Clean Version of The Entire Set of Pending Claims is included with the Appendix of this Amendment.

Claims 2-4, 9-11, 17-18 and 22

Claims 2-4, 9-11 and 17-18 and 22 are rewritten in allowable independent form as suggested by the Examiner. Claim 9 is further amended to overcome the objection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Claim 23, 24 and 26

The Examiner notes that claims 23, 24 and 26 have allowable subject matter but depend from rejected claims. Accordingly, claims 23, 24 and 26 are amended to depend from other, allowable, claims while leaving their respective limitations unchanged.

Specifically, claims 23 and 26 are amended to depend from claim 2, which is allowable as explained above. This, taken together with other amendments to claims 23 and 26, leaves the limitations of claims 23 and 26 unchanged from what Examiner declared allowable.

Similarly, claim 24 is amended to depend from claim 4, which is allowable as explained above. This, taken together with other amendments to claim 24, leaves the limitations of claim 24 unchanged from what the Examiner declared allowable. Claims 23, 24 and 26 thus remain allowable.

Claims 5-8, 12-13 and 27-29

Claim 5 is rewritten in independent form. Claim 5 is also amended to recite a clip that extends outwardly from the front opening of the wall structure.

None of the cited references discloses a clip as presently claimed. In particular, the clip disclosed in US Patent No. 4,612,412 to Johnston does not extend outwardly from the front opening of the wall structure. But, rather, a channel member extends outwardly from the side of the box. The channel member engages a "rail 56" that extends upwardly from a side wall of the box. Therefore, claim 5 is patentable over the cited prior art.

Claims 13 and 28, which depend from claim 5, are amended to overcome the objection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. In particular, the word "clips" in claim 13 is replaced with "clip" to correct a typographical error which led to the lack of antecedent basis. This word replacement does not narrow the claim scope, since the word "clip" in claim 13 clearly refers to the "at least one clip" of claim 5.

Claims 6-8, 12-13 and 27-29 depend from claim 5. The limitations that they add to claim 5 distinguish the invention further from the prior art. Claims 6-13 and 27-29 are thus also patentable.

Claims 14-16, 19 and 30-31

Claim 14 is recast in independent form. The limitations of claim 14 are similar to those of claim 25, with the additional limitation, absent in claim 25, that the adhering element is coupled to an outer surface. This limitation is hereby deleted from claim 14 to enable claim 25 to be cancelled, to limit the number of independent claims.

Claim 14 is amended to specify that the bracket is for housing an electrical component. Claim 14 recites an adhering element coupled to the wall structure and positioned to engage a wall of an electrical outlet box.

None of the cited references discloses such a configuration. In particular, US Patent No. 4,140,293 to Hansen does not disclose such a configuration. This is because the "clamp C" of Hansen (which is affixed to the "box A") is unsuitable for housing an electrical component.

Furthermore, a combination of Hansen and Johnston would not be practicable. The epoxy layer 9 of Hansen is unsuitable for coupling the boxes of Johnston. This is because the channel/rail configuration of Johnston forces the walls of the two boxes to slide against each other along the full length of the contacting walls. If a bead of epoxy were applied to one of those walls, the epoxy would be smeared between the walls in an uncontrollable and undesirable manner as the walls slide against each other along their full lengths. Similarly, it is believed that an adhesive strip would bind between the two boxes and prevent them from sliding relative to each other. In contrast, according to the invention, the clamp can grasp the box wall rather than sliding along a rail. Consequently, the sliding motion of the clamp of the present invention can be very short. And even during that short sliding motion, the walls need not contact each other until in their final position. Therefore, claim 14 is patentable over the cited prior art.

Claims 15-16, 19 and 30-31 depend from claim 14, and are thus also patentable for the same reason.

Claims 20-21

Claim 20 is amended to recite a clip extending outward from the front opening of the wall structure.

As explained above with reference to claim 5, none of the cited references discloses the clip recited in claim 20. In particular, each clip of Johnston does not extend from the front opening of the wall structure, but rather from the top or bottom side of the box. Therefore, claim 20 is patentable over the cited prior art.

Claim 21 depends from claim 20 and is thus also patentable.

Claims 32-40

Claim 32 is amended to recite a front edge defined by three complete sides and interrupted by the lack of a fourth complete side. None of the cited references discloses such a bracket. Therefore, claim 32, as amended, is patentable over the cited prior art.

The dependency of claim 37 is amended to correct for antecedent basis.

Claims 33-40 depend from claim 32. The limitations that they add to claim 32 distinguish the invention further from the prior art. Claims 33-40 are thus also patentable.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE

2. (amended) A gangable electrical unit for positioning an electrical component beside an electrical outlet box, comprising:

a bracket including a wall structure that defines a front opening;

means for mounting the wall structure of the bracket on a wall of an electrical outlet box;

and

[The gangable electrical unit of claim 1, further comprising] a stop extending outwardly from the wall structure of the bracket, said stop including a weakened portion positioned between the stop and the wall structure, wherein the stop is configured to be broken away from the wall structure of the bracket with the application of a force sufficient to break the weakened portion.

4. (amended) A gangable electrical unit for positioning an electrical component beside an electrical outlet box, comprising:

a bracket including a wall structure that defines a front opening; and

means for mounting the wall structure of the bracket on a wall of an electrical outlet box;

[The gangable electrical unit of claim 1, wherein] the wall structure [includes] including a top wall, a bottom wall, and an attachment side wall, with corners formed between the top and bottom walls and the attachment side wall, wherein the corners are radiused in order to provide a gap for accepting a fastener head when the wall bracket is coupled to an electrical outlet box.

5. (amended) A gangable electrical unit for positioning an electrical component beside an electrical outlet box comprising:

a bracket including a wall structure that defines a front opening; and

at least one clip for mounting the wall structure of the bracket on a wall of an electrical outlet box;

[The gangable electrical unit of claim 1, wherein the means for mounting the wall structure of the bracket on an electrical outlet box includes a] with the clip extending outwardly from the front opening of the wall structure of the bracket [, said clip] and being configured to engage a wall of an electrical outlet box.

9. (amended) A gangable electrical unit for positioning an electrical component beside an electrical outlet box comprising:

a bracket including a wall structure that defines a front opening; and
at least one clip for mounting the wall structure of the bracket on a wall of an electrical outlet box, said clip extending outwardly from the wall structure of the bracket, said clip being configured to engage a wall of an electrical outlet box;

[The gangable electrical unit of claim 5, wherein] said clip [is] being L-shaped, with a first leg of the L-shaped clip being attached to the wall structure of the bracket and extending perpendicularly away from said wall structure, and [the] a second leg of the L-shaped clip extending perpendicularly away from the first leg of the clip, said second leg being configured to engage an inner surface of a wall of an electrical outlet box.

13. (amended) The gangable electrical unit of claim 12, wherein the wall structure of the bracket includes a top wall, a bottom wall, an attachment side wall, and an open back, with the [clips] clip and the adhering element being attached to the attachment side wall, said [clips] clip and adhering element together adjoining the bracket to an electrical outlet box.

14. (amended) [The gangable electrical unit of claim 1, wherein the means for mounting the wall structure of the bracket to a wall of an electrical outlet box is] A gangable electrical unit for positioning an electrical component beside an electrical outlet box, comprising:

a bracket for housing an electrical component, said bracket including a wall structure that defines a front opening; and

an adhering element coupled to [an outer surface of] the wall structure of the bracket, said adhering element being positioned to engage a wall of an electrical outlet box.

17. (amended) [The gangable electrical unit of claim 16, wherein] A gangable electrical unit for positioning an electrical component beside an electrical outlet box comprising:

a bracket including a wall structure that defines a front opening; and
an adhering element for mounting the wall structure of the bracket on a wall of an electrical outlet box;

the adhering element being coupled to an outer surface of the wall structure and being positioned to engage a wall of an electrical outlet box;

the wall structure of the bracket including three walls that partially surround the front opening; and

one of the walls of the bracket [is] being a partial side wall, said partial side wall having a front edge that is spaced from the front opening to define an opening in the partial side wall, wherein the adhering element is positioned on the partial side wall.

18. (amended) [The gangable electrical unit of claim 14, wherein] A gangable electrical unit for positioning an electrical component beside an electrical outlet box comprising:

a bracket including a wall structure that defines a front opening; and
an adhering element for mounting the wall structure of the bracket on a wall of an electrical outlet box;

the adhering element being coupled to an outer surface of the wall structure and positioned to engage a wall of an electrical outlet box;

the wall structure of the bracket [includes] including a partial side wall, only a portion of which extends to the front opening[,] ; and

the unit further comprising a pair of clips that extend outwardly from the front opening of the bracket from the partial side wall, said clips being configured to engage a wall structure of an electrical outlet box.

20. (amended) A gangable electrical unit for positioning an electrical component beside an electrical outlet box comprising:

a bracket including a wall structure that defines a front opening; and

at least one clip coupled to the wall structure and extending outwardly [therefrom] from the front opening of the wall structure, said clip being configured to grasp a wall of an electrical outlet box.

22. (amended) [The gangable electrical unit of claim 21, wherein] A gangable electrical unit for positioning an electrical component beside an electrical outlet box, comprising:
a bracket including a wall structure that defines a front opening; and
at least one clip coupled to the wall structure and extending outwardly therefrom, said clip being configured to grasp a wall of an electrical outlet box;
said clip including a self-centering portion for centering the bracket on an electrical outlet box; and

the self-centering portion [is] being a protrusion that extends from the clip, said protrusion being configured to abut a wall of an electrical outlet box.

23. (amended) The gangable electrical unit of claim [20] 2, [further comprising a stop extending outwardly from the wall structure of the bracket, said stop including a weakened portion positioned between the stop and the wall structure, wherein the stop is configured to be broken away from the wall structure with the application of a force sufficient to break the weakened portion] wherein said means for mounting comprises at least one clip coupled to the wall structure and extending outwardly therefrom, said clip being configured to grasp a wall of an electrical outlet box.

24. (amended) The gangable electrical unit of claim [20] 4, [wherein the wall structure includes a top wall, a bottom wall, and an attachment side wall, with corners formed between the top and bottom walls and the attachment side wall, wherein the corners are radiused in order to provide a gap for accepting a fastener head when the wall bracket is coupled to an electrical outlet box] further including at least one clip coupled to the wall structure and extending outwardly therefrom, said clip being configured to grasp a wall of an electrical outlet box.

26. (amended) The gangable electrical unit of claim [25] 2, [further comprising a stop extending outwardly from the wall structure of the bracket, said stop including a weakened portion positioned between the stop and the wall structure, wherein the stop is configured to be broken away from the wall structure with the application of a force sufficient to break the weakened portion] wherein the means for mounting the wall structure includes an adhering element attached to the wall structure of the bracket positioned for adhering the bracket to a wall of an electrical outlet box.

27. A ganged electrical outlet box assembly comprising:
the gangable electrical unit of claim 5; and
an electrical outlet box having a wall for contacting the gangable electrical unit, with the gangable electrical unit being attached to the electrical outlet box by the clip.

28. (amended) The ganged electrical outlet box assembly of claim 27, wherein the electrical outlet box has a wall structure that defines an outer periphery, and, when adjoined with the gangable electrical unit, the ganged electrical outlet box assembly has a continuous, rectangular outer periphery [at the front openings thereof].

32. (amended) An apparatus comprising:
a bracket structure having a [three-sided] front edge defined by three complete sides with the front edge being interrupted by the lack of a fourth complete side, a routing portion configured to route a low voltage electrical line, and a clip portion configured to engage a high voltage electrical box to support said bracket structure in a position in which the electrical box and said three-sided front edge together define a four-sided opening for access to a low voltage electrical line at said routing portion.

37. (amended) The apparatus as defined in claim [35] 36, wherein said attachment side wall is configured to overlie an adjacent side wall of the electrical box when said bracket structure is in said position.